

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

EB-11 AID-20 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 HEW-08 SIL-01 LAB-06 COME-00 PC-04 RSR-01

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R 271200Z JUL 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 785

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJ: 55TH ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 5- MASS POVERTY AND
UNEMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY. AFTER HEARING STATEMENTS FROM 20 DELS AND
CDP AND ILO REPS ON SUBJECT, ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CON-
CLUDED GENERAL DISCUSSION THIS ITEM JULY 24. MODERATE
AND BALANCED DRAFT RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY COLOMBIA,
DENMARK, FINLAND, JAPAN, KENYA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEA-
LAND, SENEGAL, SRI LANKA, SWEDEN TO BE TAKEN UP BY
COMMITTEE PROBABLY NEXT WEEK TOGETHER WITH SERIES OF
CONTROVERSIAL AMENDMENTS BEING PROPOSED BY USSR AND
POLAND.
END SUMMARY.

1. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SPENT NEARLY THREE FULL MEETINGS
DEBATING PROBLEMS OF MASS POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.
SUBJECT INTRODUCED BY CDP SPOKESMAN WHO NOTED THAT
ONLY 21 COUNTRIES HAD RESPONDED TO SYG QUESTIONNAIRE
ON WHICH SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT BASED AND THAT IT OB-
VIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE DRAW DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS REGARD-
ING PROBLEM FROM SUCH SMALL DATA BASE. IN VIEW OF
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CDP AND SECRETARIAT IT CLEAR HOWEVER THAT SUCH MASSIVE

PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY "FEW ADDITIVE MEASURES" AND ENTIRE PROBLEM MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SCRUTINY AS PART OF OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL EXERCISE. ILO REP EXPLAINED WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM NOTING THAT COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT MISSIONS UNDERTAKEN BY ILO NOT DESIGNED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BUT TO ATTEMPT SURFACE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE TO ILO IN THIS EFFORT AND WILL HELP FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER LINKAGE BETWEEN ILO AND LDC GOVERNMENTS.

2. NUMBER OF LDC DELS (INDONESIA, MADAGASCAR, KENYA, BRAZIL, PAKISTAN) DESCRIBED VARIOUS EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF MASS POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT. DCS (FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, CANADA, JAPAN, US) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PROBLEMS WITH SOME INCLUDING US NOTING THAT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INCREASINGLY BEING TAILORED TO HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON MASS POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

3. MAIN POINTS STRESSED BY LDC SPEAKERS INCLUDED: POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS CLOSELY LINKED WITH OVERALL PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; NEED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO RURAL AREAS AND FOR MONETIZING RURAL ECONOMIES; NEED TO VIEW INDUSTRIALIZATION AND GNP INCREASES NOT AS ENDS IN THEMSELVES BUT AS MEANS TO INCREASE HUMAN WELLBEING; NEED FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE FROM DCS AND FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LDC TERMS OF TRADE.

4. MORE MILITANT LDCS (CHILE, ALGERIA, PERU) AND USSR, POLAND STRESSED THAT "RADICAL TRANSFORMATION" OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN LDCS IS ESSENTIAL PRECONDITION FOR GREATER ECONOMIC EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN LDCS. BRAZIL ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST GIVING PRIMACY TO "SOCIAL" PROGRESS OVER INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. INDONESIA AND KENYA ONLY LDC DELS TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH AS USEFUL MEASURE IN DEALING WITH POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT. INDONESIAN DEL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES BRING POPULATION GROWTH RATE DOWN TO 2.1 0/0 BY 1978.

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LATION GROWTH RATE DOWN TO 2.1 0/0 BY 1978.

5. U.S. STATEMENT, FOLLOWING POSITION PAPER, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT SG REPORT, SUGGESTED SUCH ASSESSMENT BE MADE IN CONTEXT OF ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, AND HE MADE AS PART OF REVIEW AND APPRAISAL PROCESS. ALSO ENDORSED CDP APPROACH TO CONSIDER POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES AS COMPONENT OF OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING PROCESS; SEEK EMPLOYMENT

POTENTIAL INRURAL SECTOR AND GIVE PRIORITY TO LABOR INTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRIES. ENDORSED IBRD STATEMENT AT 53RD ECOSOC AS IN ACC REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 17 B). NOTED CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTED WITH LDC AND THAT ROLE EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE MARGINAL IN THIS AREA BUT CITED U.S. CONSIDERATION EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION ISSUES AS STANDARD PROCEDURE IN US AID PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ECONOMIC PLANNING DISCUSSIONS OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

6. TEXT OF DRAFT RES AND AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY USSR AND PLOLAND WITH US DEL VIEWS THEREON BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.

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